

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4298

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: NATO REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS

REF: USNATO 4194

1. ON AUGUST 6, POLADS CONTINUED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PROPOSED AUTUMN SCHEDULE FOR REGIONAL EXPERTS MEETINGS AND ON U.S. SUGGESTION THAT POLADS WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH REGIONAL EXPERTS WITH THE VIEW OF REGULARIZING ALLIANCE CONSULTATION ON EVENTS IN AREAS OUTSIDE THE TREATY'S COVERAGE. ON SCHEDULE AND FORMAT FOR EXPERTS MEETINGS:

- A) POLADS AGREED TO PROPOSED AUTUMN SCHEDULE INCLUDING THE PROPOSED DURATION FOR EACH MEETING;
- B) POLADS AGREED TO CONTINUED SEPARATION OF THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON THE MIDDLE EAST/MAGHREB AND THE AD HOC GROUP ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ON THE CONDITION THAT MANDATES OF THESE TWO SEPARATE GROUPS WILL BE MORE STRICTLY DEFINED AND ADHERED TO;
- C) POLADS WERE ASKED TO AGREE TO AUTUMN MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP ON THE MEDITERRANEAN ON 5-8 NOVEMBER. COMMENT: UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY, MISSION WILL ACCEPT THOSE DATES. END COMMENT;
- D) PREFERENCE EMERGED IN FAVOR OF FIRST DRAFT OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERTS REPORTS BEING DONE BY THE EXPERTS THEMSELVES RATHER THAN IN ADVANCE BY THE CHAIRMAN;

E) POLADS AGREED TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE SECOND READING OF THE EXPERTS DRAFT. GRAMMATICAL AND STYLISTIC

POLISHING OF FINAL REPORT AND ACCURACY OF TRANSLATION WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHAIRMAN;

F) THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF REQUESTS THAT WRITTEN NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXPERTS MEETINGS BE RECEIVED ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE OF OPENING OF MEETINGS, AND THAT SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS BEAR CLASSIFICATION NO HIGHER THAN NATO CONFIDENTIAL.

2. U.S. PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA RAN INTO PREDICTABLE FRENCH OPPOSITION AND UNEXPECTED CANADIAN CRITICISM. IN REJOINDER TO THIS CRITICISM, U.S. REP MADE CLEAR THAT PROPOSAL DID NOT ENVISAGE DILUTION OF THE STATUS OF THE EXPERTS MEETINGS NOR THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE COUNCIL. NEITHER DID PROPOSAL SEEK TO TRANSFORM POLADS INTO GROUP OF FREE-WHEELING MULTI-REGIONAL EXPERTS WHO WOULD SIT PERMANENTLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS FRENCH REP FEARED. FURTHERMORE, PROPOSAL DID NOT SUGGEST THAT POLAD'S COMMITTEE WOULD ARROGATE TO ITSELF POWERS NOT DELEGATED BY THE COUNCIL.

3. U.S. REP STRESSED THAT OUR PROPOSAL SIMPLY SUGGESTED THAT WHERE REGIONAL EXPERTS IDENTIFIED POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WHICH WERE NOT YET OF A MAGNITUDE OR SEVERITY TO REQUIRE COUNCIL ATTENTION BUT WHICH NEVERTHELESS OUGHT TO BE REVIEWED MORE THAN TWO TIMES A YEAR, POLADS MIGHT BE EMPOWERED TO KEEP IN EFFECT WATCHING BRIEFS ON THOSE PROBLEMS ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL. U.S. ALSO THOUGHT THAT POLADS MIGHT BE FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG DELEGATIONS AS TO WHETHER AND WHEN A DETAILED STUDY ON ANY PARTICULAR EXTRA-TREATY AREA PROBLEM MIGHT BE CALLED FOR. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN UNDERTOOK TO REDUCE VARIOUS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE DOUCMENT WHICH WILL BE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION.

4. COMMENT: IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT FRANCE MAINTAINS ITS TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION TO CONSULTATION ON MATTERS OUTSIDE THE TREATY AREA AND VIEWS THIS PROPOSAL AS A THREAT. RATHER THAN OPPOSE THE PRINCIPLE OF SUCH CONSULTATIONS, HOWEVER, PARIS HAS CHOSEN TO TAKE VIEW THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS ARE PRESENTLY BEYOND THE MANDATE OF POLADS. AT SAME TIME, FRANCE SEES
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NO REASON TO CHANGE THE PRESENT MANDATE BECAUSE THE INITIATIVE ON CONSULTATIONS SHOULD STAY IN COUNCIL. MISSION HAS HEARD THROUGH IS SOURCES THAT FRENCH DELEGATION SEEKS TO AVOID A SITUATION IT FEARS MORE LKELY TO ARISE IN POLADS THAN NAC WHERE IT WILL BE FACED WITH NUMEROUS PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATIONS AND STUDY PROJECTS AND WILL BE MADE TO APPEAR OBSTRUCTIONIST EACH TIME IT VETOES SUCH PROPOSALS. CANADIAN OPPOSITION SEEMS LESS LOGICAL. CANADIAN REP EXPRESSED FEAR THAT NATO POLADS INTEREST IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD MIGHT CREATE NEGATIVE PUBLIC IMAGE IF IT BECAME KNOWN AND CIETED EXAMPLE OF ALLEGED SALCANT CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR PROTECTION OF AFRICAN CAPE SHIPPING LANES. OTTAWA IS PERHAPS CONFUSING POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH MILITARY PLANNING FOR

CONTINGENCIES.

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